



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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**EVENT: Sentence**

**Defendant: David Bennett**

**LOCAL BUSINESSMAN SENTENCED FOR SECOND FEDERAL CONVICTION  
FOR A CRIME OF FALSEHOOD**

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U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today that David Bennett, a 48-year old Saginaw County resident and self-employed Bay City businessman, was sentenced on October 20, 2005 by United States District Judge David M. Lawson in Bay City, Michigan. Bennet was convicted by a jury of knowingly causing materially false statements to be made to the Social Security Administration between April of 1993 to approximately May of 1998. Judge Lawson sentenced Bennett to probation for 24 months and ordered Bennett to pay \$91,577 in restitution owed jointly by Bennett to the Social Security Administration.

The conduct which gave rise to Bennett's social security fraud conviction occurred while he was employed as the vice-president and general manager at an auto dealership in Bay City, Michigan. Bennett arranged for Clyde Fisher, a person already collecting social security disability benefits, to work at the car dealership under the name and social security number of Fisher's wife, Mary Fisher. Consequently, the Social Security Administration was given false information regarding the identity of the wage earner and person earning credits toward social

security benefits, while Clyde Fisher's earnings and ability to work were concealed from the Social Security Administration. The Fishers and Bennett are jointly obligated to repay the Social Security Administration the more than \$91,000 paid to Clyde Fisher by the Social Security Administration while he was working full time at the auto dealership.

U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy noted that this is the second time that Bennett stood before Judge Lawson for sentencing. On June 28, 2004, Judge Lawson sentenced Bennett to concurrent one year probationary terms and a fine of \$2,000 for being a felon in possession of firearms and for making false statements to a licensed firearm dealer in connection with the purchase of firearms. Both of those convictions were based on conduct committed by Bennett after he was found guilty of the social security fraud charge for which he was sentenced on October 20, 2005. As part of the firearms case Bennett was also required to forfeit nine firearms.

U.S. Attorney Murphy commended the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General for its excellent work in investigating the social security fraud scheme in which Bennett was an essential participant. The Office of Inspector General, located in Detroit, Michigan, welcomes tips regarding other incidents of suspected social security fraud. The prosecution of both the social security fraud case and the firearms case against David Bennett were handled by the U.S. Attorney's field office in Bay City, Michigan.